

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 3, 7, 12, 13 and 16 have been amended. Claims 2, 4, 6 and 8-10 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 7 and 11-16 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1-3 and 9-11 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Oh (US 5,950,460) (hereinafter "Oh") or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable Oh in view of Na et al. (US 5,865,046) (hereinafter "Na").

Claims 4, 6-8, 12-15 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable Oh in view of Na and further in view of Seo (US 5,551,262) (hereinafter "Seo").

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable Oh in view of Na and further in view of Cho (US 5,727,404) (hereinafter "Cho").

Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 11-16

Amended claim 1 recites: "...the guide unit comprises a guide part having a plate shape, and slidably contacting with a rear surface of the rotating plate of the pulsator, a mounting part to mount the guide part to the seat and extending around an edge of the guide part, a central hole formed at a center of the guide part to allow the rotating shaft to pass through the guide part, and a shaft guide part extending from the central hole to guide the rotating shaft." Support for this amendment may be found in at least original claims 2, 4 and 6. The Office Action relies on Na to discuss the guide unit recited in claim 1 (Office Action, page 4, numbered paragraph 4).

However, the Office Action only cites the driven gear 48 of Na, which is a part of the gear train 40 of Na. In Na, the gear train 40 includes a driving gear wheel 42 receiving the rotation force of the first pulsator 20 and a driven gear 48 meshed with the driving gear wheel 42. The gear train 40 further includes an idle gear 46 formed along the tracks of the rotation of the driving gear around the shaft 8. However, it is respectfully submitted that none of these features of Na discuss render obvious the recited features of claim 1 of a guide part having a plate shape, a mounting part to mount the guide part to the seat or a shaft guide part to guide the rotating shaft. Specifically, the Applicants traverse the Examiners statement that the gear train 40 of Na is the functional equivalent of Na. Claim 1 recites features not found in Na or the other relied upon references.

Claims 2, 4, 6 and 8 have been cancelled. Claims 3, 7 and 11-16 depend on claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is requested.

Claims 9 and 10

Claims 9 and 10 have been cancelled.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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